

CLAIMS

1. A user interface template for generating a computer user interface through which a user may perform a task, the user interface template including a window on a computer screen comprising:

a first pane displaying two or more view selection links, the first pane having one of the two or more view selection links selected by the user at any point in time;

a second pane displaying one content pattern selected from two or more content patterns, wherein the two or more content patterns are associated with the respective two or more view selection links and wherein the one content pattern selected is selected based on the selected one of the two or more view selection links; and

a third pane displaying one or more links to activities that are directly related to the one content pattern selected from the two or more content patterns but that are not directly related to the task.

2. The user interface template of claim 1, wherein the window further comprises:

a fourth pane displaying one or more links to context related information, wherein selecting one of the one or more links to context related information displays a second window displaying an application associated with the selected one of the one or more links to context related information, and further wherein context related information is information selected from related data objects and documents.

3. The user interface template of claim 2, wherein the fourth pane further comprises a search field for performing a search of structured and unstructured data and for returning the results of the search in a third window displaying the search results.

4. The user interface template of claim 1, wherein the content patterns are selected from a content pattern template.

5. The user interface template of claim 4, wherein the content pattern templates are selected from one of a selection view content pattern, an object selection content pattern, a factsheet view content pattern, a main view content pattern, and a master-detail view content pattern.

6. The user interface template of claim 1, wherein the third pane further comprises an expansion icon, the selection of which causes the toggling of the display of the one or more links to activities.

7. The user interface template of claim 2, wherein the fourth pane further comprises an expansion icon, the selection of which causes the toggling of the display of the one or more links to context related information.

8. A system for generating a computer user interface through which a user may perform a task, the user interface template including a window on a computer screen including a first pane, a second pane, and a third pane, comprising:

- a memory; and

- a microprocessor in communication with the memory and programmed to:

- display two or more view selection links in the first pane, the first pane having one of the two or more view selection links selected by the user at any point in time;

- displaying one content pattern selected from two or more content patterns in the second pane, wherein the two or more content patterns are associated with the respective two or more view selection links and wherein the one content pattern selected is selected based on the selected one of the two or more view selection links; and

- displaying, in the third pane, one or more links to activities that are directly related to the one content pattern selected from the two or more content patterns but that are not directly related to the task.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the window further includes a fourth pane and wherein the microprocessor is further programmed to display in the fourth pane one or more links to context related information, wherein selecting one of the one or more links to context related information displays a second window displaying an application associated with the selected one of the one or more links to context related information, and further wherein context related information is information selected from related data objects and documents.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the fourth pane further comprises a search field for performing a search of structured and unstructured data and for returning the results of the search in a third window displaying the search results.

11. The system of claim 8, wherein the content patterns are selected by a system developer from a content pattern template.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the content pattern templates are selected from one of a selection view content pattern, an object selection content pattern, a factsheet view content pattern, a main view content pattern, and a master-detail view content pattern.

13. The system of claim 8, wherein the third pane further comprises an expansion icon, the selection of which causes the toggling of the display of the one or more links to activities.

14. The system of claim 9, wherein the fourth pane further comprises an expansion icon, the selection of which causes the toggling of the display of the one or more links to context related information.